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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGEN

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

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SUBJECT Minesweeper Flotilla

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Organization

1. The headquarters of the minesweeper Flotilla is situated ashore (sic). The flotilla is under the command of a Soviet officer with the rank of captain (Komandor). His second-in-command is a Polish officer who is in charge of political matters. The flotilla has its own staff which consists of officer specialists in artillery, underwater equipment and weapons, navigation, signalling, technique, and administration.
2. The flotilla consists of three divisions (dywizjony) of minesweepers, the commanders of which are subordinate directly to the commander of the Flotilla. Each of them is quartered on a minesweeper of his group. All of them are Polish officers.
 - a. The 1st Division consists of the following ships:
 - (1) T-11 (former CZAPLA) - flag-ship.
 - (2) T-12.
 - (3) T-13.
 - (4) T-14 (former JASKOLKA).
 - b. The 2nd Division consisted of the following ships:
 - (1) T-21 (former ALBATROS) - flag ship.
 - (2) T-22.
 - (3) T-23 (former JASTRZAB).

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(4) T-24 (former KORMORAN).

(5) T-25 (former KANIA).

All ships belonging to Divisions 1 and 2 are known as Kaczory.

c. The 3rd Division consists of the following ships of the DELFIN type:

(1) T-31 (former DELFIN) - flag-ship.

(2) T-32 (former FOKA).

(3) T-33 (former MORS).

Minesweeper T-21 (former ALBATROS).

3. The armament of the T-21 consists of two semi-automatic 45 mm. guns, mounted fore and aft; two 12.7 mm. heavy machine guns of the Colt type, fitted in the wings of the deck (no other details available).

4. This ship possesses four types of sweeping gear: Szulc's, Europeza, electro-magnetic and acoustic.

25X1 [] A ship of this type takes aboard 19 mines, which are placed on rails fixed on the deck.

5. The crew consists of: the commander, deputy commander (political), and a junior officer, two regular petty officers (chief engineer and boatswain) and 27 sailors on compulsory service. The crew is divided into five departments: navigation, gunnery, under-water weapons and gear (bron podwodna), signalling, and engineering.

6. The uniform consists of: two navy blue uniforms, two drill suits, two pairs of shoes, two pairs of summer or winter underwear. Sailors have four-figure numbers sewn on their drill suits which indicate the department to which the sailor belongs, the number of the watch, the consecutive position in the department, and defense stations.

7. On this ship, as well as on all others, the food consists of three very meager meals. As a rule the crew is hungry.

8. The pay of sailors and petty officers on compulsory service amounts to:

a. 6 zl. monthly for an ordinary seaman.

b. 12 zl. monthly for an able seaman.

c. 24 zl. monthly for a leading seaman.

d. 36 zl. monthly for a petty officer.

e. An embarkation allowance but only when the ship is on exercises. (This allowance is equal to pay.)

f. 10 cigarettes daily.

g. Shoe polish.

h. Soap.

9. Shore leave is granted only on Saturdays and Sundays: on Saturdays from 18:00 to 22:00 hrs. (sailors) and to 24:00 hrs. (petty officers); on Sundays from 13:00 to 22:00 hrs. (sailors) and to 24:00 hrs. (petty officers). The authority to grant shore leave is vested in the second in command (political officer).

10. The daily timetable aboard the T-31 is as follows:

06:00 - Reveille

06:05 - P.T., peeling potatoes (port and starboard crews in turn)

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06:30 - Cleaning of quarters
06:45 - Breakfast
07:15 - Clean ship
08:00 - Rollcall, raising of colors
08:15 - Morning duties according to weekly timetable
11:30 - Stand easy, clean ship
12:00 - Dinner and interval
14:00 - Afternoon duties according to weekly timetable
17:00 - Stand easy, clean ship
18:00 - Supper
19:00 - Political work in recreation room (zajecia swietlicowe)
22:00 - Roll call
23:00 - Lights out

11. The attitude of the sailors is best described by saying that they long for the day of their release from service in the navy. Sailors constantly complain of inadequate nourishment and pay. In comparison with 1950 when such complaints were expressed openly, no such complaints could be heard in 1953 for fear of denunciation.

[REDACTED] Comment: All information on uniforms, pay, food, shore leave, and daily time-tables applies not only to the flotilla of minesweepers but to the entire naval fleet.

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